

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 16 July 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This morning, mortar fire shook the early quiet for the communities of northern Israel. The fasting and prayers of thousands of Israelis commemorating the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av were interrupted by a barrage of mortar shells fired from Syria. At the same time, and in a grave violation of the 1974 separation of forces agreement, tanks, trucks and armoured vehicles belonging to Syrian government forces entered the buffer zone.

The violence that has shaken Syria is sending shockwaves throughout the region and threatening to further destabilize the Middle East. For two years, Israelis on the northern border have lived with the chaos and uncertainty of a war that threatens to spill over into their backyard. It is only a matter of time before a rocket or mortar shot from Syria falls on an Israeli home.

Israel has thus far shown maximum restraint and issued numerous warnings through the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. However, the Israeli Government will not allow its citizens to be the ongoing victims of these attacks and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and take all necessary measures to protect its population.

I urge the Security Council to condemn the incident and the Syrian Government's grave violation of the separation of forces agreement.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

